Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! The first few weeks have been going well. Students are adjusting to the 7:30 start and learning rituals and routines. Accurate contact information is critical. Thank you to the many that completed all of the forms on iUpdate. We will send paper copies of necessary documents to those families that were unable to complete the forms on-line. Please return all documents, completed, to your child’s classroom teacher as soon as possible. Contact our office if you have a change of address or phone number during the school year. There are times when we must contact a parent due to a student illness, and it is important that we have current information in our system.

Our website is updated throughout the year, and families can find important information on the site. Our school calendar lists all events, including dates that schools will be closed. You can also check to see if there are any bus delays. There are many resources for parents and students on the website, as well. Check us out at: spma.spps.org.

There are a few events coming soon. Join us for a family roller skating event on Thursday, October 3rd, at Saints North. We will be sending flyers home, and there will be a text message sent out to families as a reminder. This is a very popular event, and funds raised support our positive behavior events throughout the year. We also started, “Bring Your Parent to School” visits on September 24th with second grade. This is a time for parents to visit classrooms and have a chance to discuss the curriculum in each grade. Check our calendar for all grades and dates.

We are fortunate to have many supports at SPMA. We are an Achievement Plus site that offers assistance with housing, employment, dental, mental health, etc. Contact Craig Sweet at 744-2238 if you would like more information.

I am looking forward to an excellent year and I am excited to watch our students grow, both academically and socially. Thank you for your support – we are a great team!

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Evangelist
Principal
JOIN US FOR THE SPMA ROLLER SKATING PARTY!

When: Thursday, October 3, from 6 to 8 p.m.
Who: Family & friends of SPMA students & staff (all youth must have an adult chaperone present)
What: Roller skating, fun music, mini-golf, contests
Cost: $6 per skater (includes roller skate rental)
   - Extra cost for food, laser tag, and inline skate rentals
   - No cost for non-skaters and youth under 2 years old
Where: Saints North Family Skate Center
   1818 Gervais Court, Maplewood, MN 55109
   (651) 770 – 3848
For more information contact Bee Xiong at (651) 293-8795.

*Proceeds will go to our school wide Positive Behavior Program.
**Skate At Your Own Risk – SPMA and Saints North are not responsible for any injuries.

SPMA School Attendance Policy

Did you know that good, regular attendance in elementary school is one of the strongest predictors of a student graduating high school? At SPMA, we work hard to support student attendance. If you are experiencing extenuating circumstances that impact your student coming to school every day, on time, please contact our school counselor.

Please be aware of the following steps to take if your student needs to be absent from school:

Please call the Attendance Line at 651-744-2168 by the end of the school day
   • If leaving a message, please provide:
     o Your name
     o Phone number
     o Student’s Name
     o Reason for absence
   You must call to report for EACH DAY that your child is absent.

EXCUSED Absences:
• Serious Illness
• Medical Appointment
• Religious Holiday
• Extreme Family Emergency

UNEXCUSED Absences:
• Family Vacation
• Moving (within school area)
• Another sibling is ill
• Overslept

FALL 2019 MUSIC NOTES

This is an exciting year in the music rooms: we have some new drums, guitars and keyboards! Soon, some of the older instruments will be available for students in grades 4 and 5 to borrow for a week, like a library book!

Here is some other news . . .

• Band, Choir & Orchestra are up and running. If you want your 3rd-5th grade child involved and for some reason they aren’t, please contact Susie Leek for Band and Orchestra, and Teresa Kelly for choir. Third grade choir begins in early October – all other groups have begun.
• Calling all drama stars! The Minnesota Opera is partnering with us during EDL. If your 4th/5th grader likes to be on stage, please make sure they sign up for EDL! Mr. Tyler Anderson is in charge of this!
• This year we will have brand new music curriculum called Quaver, that has many interactive projects for our iPads. Our old books are about 15 years old, so we are excited to have a new, cloud-based program. All students, Kindergarten through grade 5, are having fun with the new materials.
• Preschool Music will be taught this year by Ms. Kathy Lee, with the St. Paul Conservatory of Music. Ms. Lee has performed many times at our school with The Rose Ensemble, and we’re excited to have her making music with us every week!
• Because of our early start, there is one change for the 5:30 p.m. Winter Concert (Thursday, December 19). At this time, we don’t think that any students will be staying after school. All students will be invited to come back at 5:15.

Questions? Contact:
• Mr. Tyler Anderson, General Music, EDL
• Mrs. Teresa Kelly, General Music, Choir, after school Piano Lessons
• Ms. Susie Leek, Band & Orchestra

Bring Your Parent to School Day

Families are invited to spend time in their student’s classrooms on the days scheduled below. The K, 1st, and 2nd grade visits are scheduled from 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. The Pre-k visit is from 7:30 -9:30 a.m. Observe your child’s classroom and then join other parents in the library to discuss your observations.

Scheduled Dates:
• Pre-K – Tuesday, October 15
• Kindergarten – Tuesday, October 22
• 1st Grade – Thursday, September 26
• 2nd Grade – Tuesday, September 24
If you have questions about anything in the newsletter or need translation services, please call the office at 651-293-8795.

Yog koj muaj lus nug txog abtsi hauv daim ntawv xovxwm no los yog xav tau kev pab txhais lus, thov hu rau Npliam Lis ntawm tus xov tooj 651-744-4367.

Si usted tiene preguntas sobre cualquier tema en el boletín, llame a la oficina al 651-744-2172.

No School
Oct. 17 & 18
Statewide Teacher Meetings
Oct. 25
Conference Prep Day
Nov. 15
Parent Teacher Conferences
Nov. 28 & 29
Thanksgiving Break

Parent Teacher Conferences will be here before we know it. A parent teacher conference is a great opportunity to visit your student’s classroom, connect with the teacher, and find out how your student is succeeding in school. Look for more information to come home later this Fall.

School: Saint Paul Music Academy  District: St. Paul Public School District

Parent Teacher Conferences
Monday, November 11 – 3 to 7 p.m.
Thursday, November 14 – 3 to 7 p.m.
Friday, November 15 – 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Meet Our New Assistant Principal

Greetings SPMA Families and Community!

My name is Sue Mondry and I am so excited to be the assistant principal at St. Paul Music Academy! I have proudly worked for St. Paul Public Schools my entire career, which started in 1989 as a third grade teacher in this building, then called North End Elementary. I am so happy to be back! In addition to many years as a classroom teacher, I have also served as a reading specialist, building and district literacy coach, and administrator. I love supporting students and staff as well as connecting with families in this role.

Away from work, I enjoy spending time with my family which include: my husband, Dave and my adult children Allison and Tony.

I love being outside with activities like gardening, boating, playing volleyball, skiing, and hiking.

I look forward to meeting everyone and supporting students at SPMA!

Sincerely,

Sue Mondry

Student Created Musical returns to SPMA!

Saint Paul Music Academy is getting ready for another year of Music Out Loud! This is a collaboration between 4th and 5th grade students in the after school EDL program and Artists in Residence from the MN Opera. Students who sign up will write lyrics, build sets, create costumes and perform their own opera, building literacy skills while exploring the arts. Students also get a chance to explore a variety of careers including skilled technical theater trades in addition to performance. Last year the students’ choice was to address issues around bullying with their student created opera. We look forward to seeing what they create this year!

Library News

Your student comes to the library each week. They are allowed to check out books. Please remind your child to keep their books in their backpacks when they are not reading them. This way, they should not lose the books that they checked out.

During the month of October, I will be holding a read down for missing library books. If your child is missing a book, they can come to the library and read down the cost of the book. If you see any books from our school please send them to school. Also, if you find a book from a previous school, send that to school and I will return the book to the correct school.

During conferences in November, we will be having a Book Fair. The money earned will purchase books for the school library. If you would like to volunteer at the fair, please let me know. I can be reached at patricia.thiets@spps.org or 651-744-2180.

Announcement for Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT7) SY 2019-20

Dates and deadlines for the test that determines student eligibility for accelerated services in Saint Paul Public Schools, the CogAT7, have been set.

The CogAT7 test will be provided to all SPPS students in kindergarten, and to any previously unidentified students in second grade, from October 7 – November 12.

Students in grades 1, 3, 4 and 5, also may be nominated for assessment to receive accelerated services by an SPPS staff member, family member, or community member. The deadline for submitting nominations is October 4, 2019.

If parents or guardians would prefer that their student not participate in the CogAT7 testing, they should provide their child’s principal with a written note indicating that choice.

For more information on accelerated services in SPPS, please go to tdas.spps.org.
**Free Groceries for all SPMA Students!**

- Free and open to all SPMA families
- Distribution Dates:
  - Wednesday, October 23
  - Wednesday, November 20
- You can pick up food from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.
- Families can choose their items
- There will always be fresh produce available
- No registration needed
- Distributions are held in the gym
- Contact Craig Sweet with any questions (craig.sweet@spps.org or 651-744-2238)

**Science News**

SPMA second graders helped release two Monarch butterflies on Wednesday, September 18. These butterflies are now flying their great migration journey to Mexico where they will overwinter in the Oyamel Fir Forests in the mountains west of Mexico City. These same butterflies will begin the journey north in the spring. We were very excited to be a part of this journey!

**A friendly reminder to be safe when dropping kids off at school...**

The buses drop off students on Rose Avenue between 7:10 and 7:30 a.m. each morning. During that time, it is important that only buses use that area. If the buses are lined up on Rose Avenue, please drive to the parking lot to drop off your student. You can pull up to the cafeteria doors and students can enter the school from there until 7:30. After 7:30, the cafeteria doors are locked. Please go to the front of the building to sign your child in at the office at that time. Thank you for helping to make student arrival time as safe as possible!

**We Collect Box Tops for Education!**

SPMA collects Box Tops for Education so please send them to school with your student. Every box top has an expiration so it is very important to send them as soon as you get them. Box tops has also introduced a new digital app that allows you to scan your retail receipts and instantly earn points (points = money) for our school. If you would like to use the Box Top app, create an account and then add our school. The Box Top code for SPMA is 397462. Eventually the box top program will be digital only. Participating brands are already starting to change their packaging from the traditional clip box top to a new digital box top label. Thanks for helping our school make extra money for fun activities!
# Important Dates

Dates highlighted in gray have an event listed next to the calendar.

## September

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Sept. 2 – NO SCHOOL Labor Day  
Sept. 3 – First Day of School (Grades 1 -5)  
Sept. 5 – First Day of School (Pre-K & Kindergarten)  
Sept. 6 – School Assembly 8:15 a.m.  
Sept. 10 – iPad Hand Out  
Sept. 24 – 2nd Grade Bring Your Parent to School Day 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.  
Sept. 25 – Food Give Away 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.  
Sept. 26 – 1st Grade Bring Your Parent to School Day 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.  
Sept. 27 – School Wide Celebration  
PBIS Fun Day

## October

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Oct. 2 – School Assembly 9 a.m.  
Oct. 3 – Family Roller Skating Party 6 – 8 p.m.  
Oct. 8 – PTO 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.  
Oct. 15 – Pre-K Bring Your Parent to School Day 7:30 – 9:30 a.m.  
Oct. 16 – School Picture Day  
Oct. 17 & 18 – NO SCHOOL  
Statewide Teacher Meetings  
Oct. 22 – Kindergarten Bring Your Parent to School Day 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.  
Oct. 23 – Food Give Away 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.  
Oct. 25 – NO SCHOOL Conference Prep Day  
Oct. 31 – PBIS Celebration  

Extended Day Learning Dates  
Oct. 8, 10, 15, 22, 24, 29, 31

## November

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Nov. 1 – School Assembly 1:00 p.m.  
Nov. 5 – PTO 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.  
Nov. 11 – Parent Teacher Conferences 3 – 7 p.m.  
Nov. 13 – School Picture Retake Day  
Nov. 14 – PreK No School  
Nov. 14 – Parent Teacher Conferences 3 – 7 p.m.  
Nov. 15 – NO SCHOOL  
Nov. 15 – Parent Teacher Conferences 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
Nov. 20 – Food Give Away 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.  
Nov. 27 – PBIS Celebration  
Nov. 28 & 29 – NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Break

Extended Day Learning Dates  
Nov. 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26